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Sixty-first session
Agenda item 27
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Letter dated 18 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the comments of the Ministry of Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova on the alleged "economic blockade of Transnistria" (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27.

(*Signed*) Alexei **Tulbure**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

07-35094 (E) 230507

Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2007 from the Permanent Representative of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Comments of the Ministry of Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova on the alleged economic blockade of Transnistria

18 May 2007

Regarding speculations spread by the national and international press and statements by some foreign officials about the alleged economic blockade against Transnistria, the Reintegration Ministry states that:

Decision No. 301 of the Government of the Republic of Moldova of 17 March 2007 concerning the amendment of Government Decision No. 815 of 2 August 2005 was taken as the result of a set of measures designed to create favourable conditions and support export operations carried out by economic agents all over the Republic of Moldova, including by enterprises in the Transnistrian region of Moldova. In particular, decision No. 301 grants enterprises from the Transnistrian region, which have temporary registration with the Moldovan State Licensing Chamber, the right to receive preferential certificates of origin for exports to European Union and Commonwealth of Independent States member States as well as to other European States. Economic agents from the left bank of the Dniestre River, regardless of whether their registration is permanent or temporary, enjoy the same rights and opportunities as other enterprises based in Moldova, and are also exempt from all taxes and fees payable to the State budget of Moldova. Payments are made exclusively to the budget of the Transnistrian region. Moreover, the Moldovan State Licensing Chamber issues licences free of charge to economic agents from the left bank of the Dniestre River for all kinds of licensed activities.

At the same time, it should be emphasized that the issuance of certificates of origin by the competent bodies of the Moldovan Government implies some bilateral and multilateral commitments vis-à-vis the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States and other States and organizations regarding the control of the goods provenance. These commitments involve effective measures to impede re-export and smuggling. Government decision No. 301, which provides for the legalization of imports by Transnistrian economic agents, covers only raw material and spare parts imported to produce goods intended for export. The decision is in line with relevant international norms and standards and with Moldova's commitments as a member of the World Trade Organization.

Hence, it is clear that speculations about the alleged economic blockade against Transnistria entering a new phase are ill-intentioned provocations aimed at misinforming businesses on the left bank of the Dniestre as well as the leadership of certain States. The successful performance of Transnistrian enterprises and the increasing volume of exports from the region prove that the existing export/import mechanism is effective. Despite all assertions to the contrary, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, reiterating the Declaration of 24 March 2006, guarantees the enterprises on the left bank of the Dniestre that equitable and transparent rules for legal foreign trade will be preserved.

In this context, the Ministry draws the attention of the Tiraspol authorities to the activity of some dubious transport firms controlled by prominent individuals in the region, which are resulting in millions of dollars of losses to the local budget. Eliminating these underground schemes, presented as a way to fight the railway blockade, will allow for the resumption of normal rail service throughout the Republic of Moldova, including the Transnistrian region, for the benefit of citizens and economic agents and the resumption of payments to the regional budget and will provide work for 3,000 people who lost their jobs after the seizure of the Railway of Moldova, a State enterprise, in 2004.

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Sixty-first session
Agenda items 68 and 117
Report of the Human Rights Council

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Reports of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from decision S-4/101 adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fourth special session in 2006 (A/61/530/Add.2) and on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions adopted by the Council at its fourth session in 2007 (A/61/530/Add.3)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee has considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from decision S-4/101 adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fourth special session in 2006 (A/61/530/Add.2) and on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions adopted by the Council at its fourth session in 2007 (A/61/530/Add.3).

2. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from decision S-4/101 adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fourth special session in 2006 (A/61/530/Add.2), the adoption of the decision gives rise to estimated requirements in the amount of $347,200 for the biennium 2006-2007 to implement the activities outlined in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General.

3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 7 of the report that revised programme budget implications were not presented prior to the introduction and adoption of the draft decision presented by the President of the Human Rights Council. Consequently, the Council was informed that the General Assembly would be informed of the estimated resources required to implement the decision (see A/HRC/S-4/5, para. 12). It is envisaged that the estimated expenditures will be accommodated from within existing resources under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

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4. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General (A/61/530/Add.2).**

5. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates resulting from resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its fourth session in 2007 (A/61/530/Add.3), the adoption of resolutions 4/4 and 4/8 gives rise to estimated requirements of $434,600. In accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Council was provided with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of the resolutions.

6. A summary of the requirements is provided in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General. With regard to Council resolution 4/8, the Secretary-General intends to accommodate $360,300, to the extent possible, from within the resources already appropriated under the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. Any additional requirements would be reported in the context of the second performance report of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007. With regard to Council resolution 4/4, an amount of $74,300 is projected to be required for the biennium 2008-2009 and will be considered in accordance with established procedures under General Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211.

7. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the fact that the implementation of Council resolution 4/8 would give rise to additional requirements in the amount of $360,300 under sections 2, 23 and 28E of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, which would be accommodated, to the extent possible, within the existing appropriation, and that the Secretary-General intends to report in the context of the second performance report of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 on any additional requirements (A/61/530/Add.3, sect. IV (a)).**

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the fact that the implementation of Council resolution 4/4 would give rise to additional requirements in the amount of $74,300 under sections 2, 23 and 28E of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and that those requirements would be considered when the Assembly takes up the proposed 2008-2009 programme budget and the related contingency fund (A/61/530/Add.3, sect. IV (b)).**